

REMARKS

Claims 1-28 are pending in the instant application. Claims 1-10, 15-17, and 28 have been rejected. The Examiner has objected claims 11-14 and 18-27 as being dependent upon rejected base claims but has indicated that said claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 15 has been amended. The Applicants submit that claims 1-28 are in condition for allowance for at least the reasons presented herein. No new matter has been entered.

Claim rejections under 35 USC 102

Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, and 10 have been rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being allegedly anticipated by U. S. Patent No. 6,435,685 issued to Matsushita.

With respect to claim 1, the Applicants submit that claim 1 is not anticipated by Matsushita because Matsushita does not teach or disclose each and every element therein. Specifically, Matsushita is devoid of teaching a light interceptive part as recited in claim 1. If the Examiner is somehow suggesting that the turn-up elements (281, 282) in Matsushita are the recited light interceptive part, then this position is flawed. The turn-up elements disclosed in Matsushita are merely a part of the lamp reflector. Thus, Matsushita does not teach a light interceptive part. Accordingly, for at least this reason, the Applicants submit that claim 1 is patentable over Matsushita. Claims 2, 4, 5, and 10 depend from what should be an allowable claim 1. For at least this reason, the Applicants submit that claims 2, 4, 5, and 10 are patentable over Matsushita. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of claims 1, 2, 4, 5, and 10 is respectfully requested.

Claim rejections under 35 USC 103

Claims 3, 6, 7, and 28 have been rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Matsushita. In addition, claims 8 and 9 have been rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Matsushita in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,443,583 issued to Ha or U.S. Patent No. 6,074,070 issued to Sasako. Further claims 15-17 have been rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over U.S.

Patent No. 6,502,947 issued to Matsumoto et al. (hereinafter "Matsumoto"). Finally, claim 28 has been rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Matsumoto in view of Matsushita.

Claim 8 is in condition for allowance at least due to its dependence upon what should be an allowable claim 1 as submitted above. Moreover, claim 8 contains patentable subject matter in and of itself. The Examiner has rejected claim 8 as being allegedly unpatentable over Matsushita in view of Ha or Sasako. The Applicants submit that claim 8 is not rendered obvious by Matsushita in view of Ha or Sasako. In particular, as recited in claim 8, the light interceptive part is printed on a surface of the lamp reflector, whereas the black printed region in Ha is printed on a surface of the light guide plate. Thus, for at least this reason, claim 8 is patentable over Matsushita in view of Ha or Sasako. Claim 9 depends from what should be an allowable claim 8. For at least this reason, the Applicants submit that claim 9 is in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of claims 8 and 9 are respectfully requested.

Claim 15 has been amended in a non-narrowing manner to recite a backlight assembly for an LCD apparatus comprising "a reverse prism sheet placed in front of the light-emitting surface and formed with a plurality of a reverse prism teeth at intervals of a predetermined pitch on a surface facing the light-emitting surface, *wherein at least one side of every reverse prism tooth is rounded.*" Support for this amendment may be found in the specification and drawings, and more particularly, in FIG. 4 and pages 9-12 of the specification. The cited art reference relied upon by the Examiner in support of the rejection of claim 15, namely Matsumoto, does not teach a rounded reverse prism tooth, but rather discloses a sharp reverse prism tooth. Accordingly, the Applicants submit that claim 15 is patentably distinct from Matsumoto and request reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejection. Claims 16-27 depend from what should be an allowable claim 15. For at least this reason, the Applicants submit that claims 16-27 are in condition for allowance and respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejections.

Claim 28 is patentable over Matsumoto in view of Matsushita because neither Matsumoto nor Matsushita, either alone, or in combination teach or make obvious each

and every element recited therein. In particular, the limitation "*a light interceptive part interposed between the light-emitting surface and the lamp reflector*, and preventing the light from the lamp from entering through an edge at which the light-entering surface and the light-emitting surface are intersected" is not disclosed in Matsumoto nor Matsushita and is not rendered obvious by the combination of Matsumoto and Matsushita. As recited in claim 28, the light interceptive part is a separate and distinct technical feature from the lamp reflector. By contrast, Matsumoto and Matsushita disclose the light blocking structure is made integrally with the lamp reflector. Accordingly, for at least this reason, the Applicants submit that claim 28 is patentable over both Matsumoto and Matsushita and request reconsideration of the outstanding rejection.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the instant application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that this application be allowed and a Notice of Allowance issued. If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference with Applicants' attorneys would be advantageous to the disposition of this case, the Examiner is cordially requested to telephone the undersigned.

In the event the Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks deems additional fees to be due in connection with this application, Applicant's attorney hereby authorizes that such fee be charged to Deposit Account No. 06-1130.

Respectfully submitted,

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